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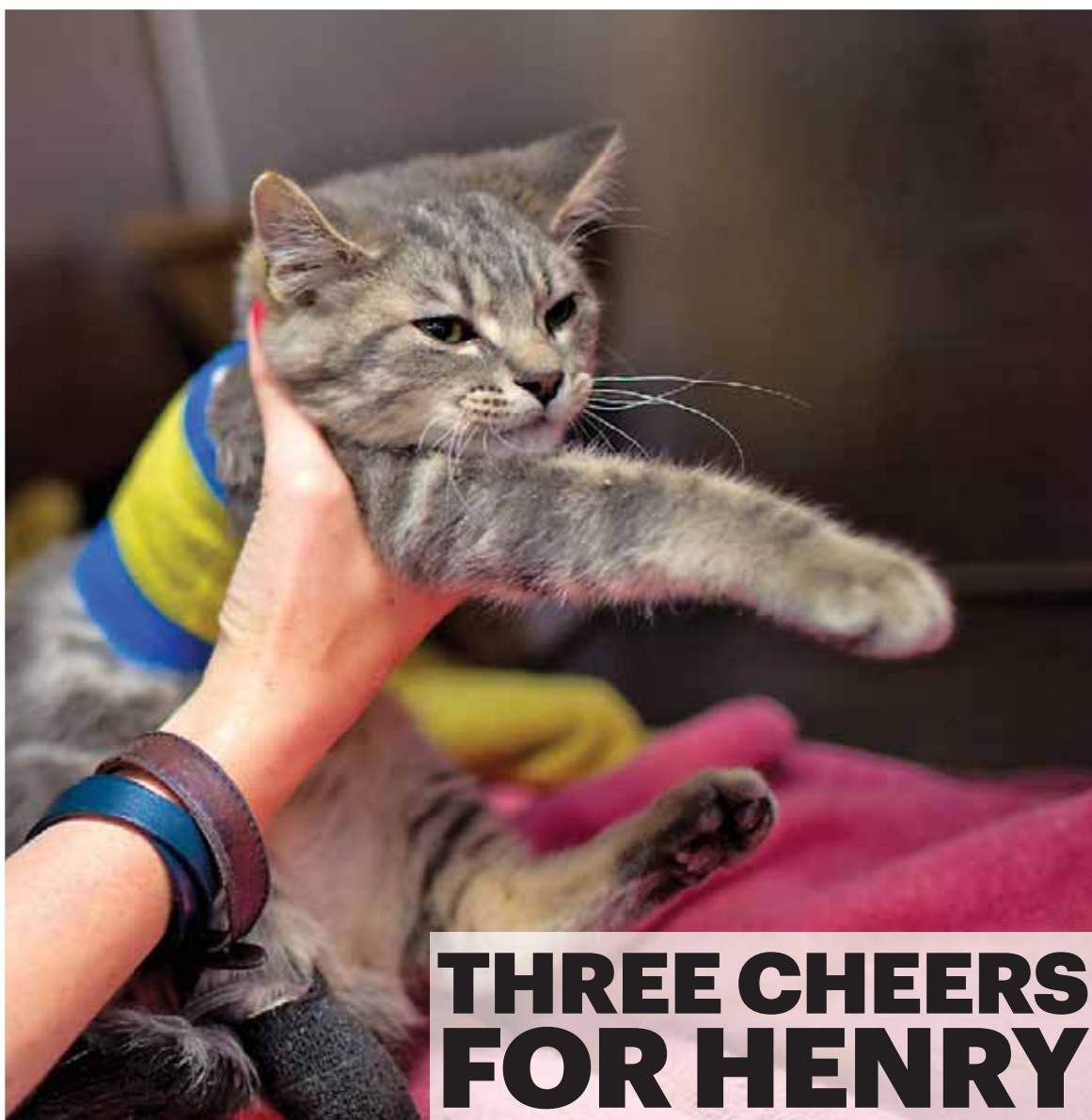
Edmonton metro

WESTWOOD:
COMEDIANS TAKING
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WTF!?
metroVIEWS



Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2015

High 28°C/Low 15°C Suntan-y



THREE CHEERS FOR HENRY

Henry, the tabby who stole Edmonton's heart after being rescued from a ditch, had his left front paw removed this week as it was too badly injured. But Humane Society staff say his chances for adoption are still strong. More, [metroNEWS](#). TOPHER SEGUIN/FOR METRO

Another suit over PC race

POLITICS

Balraj Manhas says nine people conspired to keep him out



**Ryan
Tumilty**
Metro | Edmonton

Another lawsuit has been filed over the scandal-plagued Progressive Conservative nomination race in Edmonton-Ellerslie.

In a statement of claim obtained by Metro, Balraj Manhas alleges nine people conspired to keep him out of the race to represent the PCs in the May 5 provincial election. The suit makes claims similar to those Manhas has made in the past about his nomination opponent, then-PC MLA Naresh Bhardwaj, including an allegation that an attempt was made to coerce Manhas' supporters into withdrawing their support for him.

None of the allegations has been proven in court. The suit alleges nine people, including Bhardwaj, were part of a conspiracy to keep Manhas out of the race.

After the allegations first surfaced in March, Bhardwaj filed a lawsuit of his own — a \$1-million defamation suit against Balbir Sidhu, one of the supporters who had signed Manhas' nomination papers.

Sidhu alleged in a sworn statement that he been offered a \$10,000 bribe by people working on Bhardwaj's behalf in exchange for claiming his signature and those of other family members should not have been on Manhas' papers. Bhardwaj's claim, still untested in court, was that Sidhu defamed his character with the sworn statement.

An internal PC party investigation found no wrongdoing on Bhardwaj's part.

The results of that investigation were announced March 22, but Bhardwaj said it was "with deep regret" that he had decided to drop out of the Edmonton-Ellerslie nomination race.

In his claim, Manhas is seeking a total of \$5 million in damages.

Contacted by Metro, Bhardwaj denied Manhas' claims and said he will ask a judge to toss the case.

"I think this lawsuit is absolutely frivolous," he said. "We're going to be vigorously defending it."



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Construction conundrum for festivals

Festival season is in full swing in downtown Edmonton. But this could be the last normal summer before almost two years of construction for a new LRT line invades areas in and around Churchill Square. That's prompted many festivals to figure out whether they should stay or go. Here's what some say about their plans for one year from now. **Stephanie Dubois/Metro**



Programming in Churchill Square has become an institution, say organizers with the Edmonton Arts Council. CONTRIBUTED



Organizers with The Works Festival, which dominates Churchill Square, are not sure if they will relocate next year. CONTRIBUTED



The Street Performers Festival organizers say it's essential that they remain downtown. CONTRIBUTED

1 Edmonton Arts Council programming

Giant chess, ping-pong tables and lightsaber training will stick it out in Churchill Square for as long as possible, said Bob Rasko, who heads the square's programming.

With nothing finalized in construction plans, Rasko add-

ed that Centennial Plaza offers a great opportunity for the Edmonton Arts Council to set up the games and other activities people have come to love.

"We're quite sure the programming will continue," he said.

2 The Works Arts and Design Festival

Organizers of the 13-day festival, which wrapped up Wednesday, say they're working with the city to address questions about the 19-month-long LRT construction period.

"We're still looking for other options and hoping we have

support from city where we've moved to, and how we're managing that change," said Amber Rooke, executive artistic director of the festival.

"We're looking at a few spots downtown but nothing is really finalized."

3 International Street Performers Festival

There's no doubt staff and volunteers with the Edmonton International Street Performers event are trying to juggle their needs vs. the city's construction requirement.

Although no final decisions have been made for the 2016

festival, organizers say it's essential for their event to be centrally located.

"We're trying to make sure we find a way to have a downtown presence," said Shelley Switzer, artistic director of the festival.



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Henry the kitten recovers after surgery to remove a front leg that was damaged beyond repair. TOPHER SEGUIN/FOR METRO

Three-legged animals still have a chance at adoption

HUMANE SOCIETY

Surgery helps injured cats, dogs get back on their feet

Andrea Ross
Metro | Edmonton

A grey tabby kitten that stole hearts with his “warrior” spirit is expected to make a full recovery after surgery to remove an irreparably injured front leg.

Found severely injured in May after being hit by a car just south of Red Deer, Henry was brought to the Edmonton Humane Society to treat his broken front leg, exposed tendons on his back leg and suspected head trauma. Initially, shelter staff didn't expect him to live.



Three-legged Charlie Brown is a “marvel.” CONTRIBUTED

But the feisty feline pulled through, gaining an enormous amount of support from Edmontonians, captivated by his big green eyes and little pink cast.

After recovering from Tuesday's surgery, the four-month-old kitten will be able to continue climbing, cuddling and playing just as easily as an animal with

all four legs, EHS spokeswoman Kolbi Kukurba said.

“We always have a joke here that animals are born with an extra leg,” she said. “They can do everything that a four-legged animal can do.”

Three-legged animals have just as good a chance of being adopted as their four-legged friends,

Kukurba said. And it's not rare for the Humane Society to treat and adopt out three-legged animals, such as dogs recovering from being struck by cars.

“It's more common than people think,” she said.

Indeed, Mike Ganley, editor of Alberta Venture magazine, said his three-legged mutt Charlie Brown is as able-bodied as any pup in the park.

Charlie Brown lost his right hind leg after breaking his femur when he was eight months old. Now five years old, Ganley said the dog, like Henry, is “a bit of a marvel,” and makes for a great companion.

The only thing he can't do is jump in the car after a long run in the park.

“Because it's been mostly all of his life, he's developed the musculature to compensate,” Ganley said. “He has no idea that he's three-legged.”

BUDGET

Alberta ends fiscal year with surplus

Despite the doom and gloom around the Alberta economy during the election, provincial coffers ended the year just into the black.

The year-end report, which covers the fiscal year ending in March, shows a \$1.1 billion surplus — much higher than some had anticipated. The government saw better revenues from corporations and personal income taxes than expected. While the deep fall in oil prices hurt, it was offset by stronger prices in the first part of the year.

Finance Minister Joe Ceci said the surplus is a positive sign, but stressed it's not a permanent one.

“The oil (price per) barrel is under \$60 on average every day,” Ceci said Tuesday. “That has to be taken into consideration about the impact on our revenues and ability to project where we're going to be at the end of the year.”

Wildrose finance critic Derek Fildebrandt said the \$1.1 billion

surplus is not what it appears.

“When you borrow \$3.4 billion, you are not in fact running a surplus,” he said.

Fildebrandt said the NDP's approach is only going to lead to more debt and ultimately higher taxes. He said the increases the government passed won't cover their spending plans.

“The only thing they are increasing faster than taxes is spending,” he said.

The NDP passed an interim supply bill last week with increased spending in health care, education and post-secondary institutions. A full budget is not expected until October.

Fildebrandt said the government should be presenting a budget much earlier than that and is only avoiding one as a help to their federal counterparts.

“If the NDP wants to be Thomas Mulcair's water boy that's their choice, but I think it's bad for Alberta.”

RYAN TUMILTY / WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS



Alberta Finance Minister Joe Ceci said challenges lie ahead as the current fiscal year will be the first full reporting period with oil at drastically reduced prices. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS



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OUCH BRIDGE VS. TRUCK The High Level Bridge snagged another transport truck Tuesday. "It was designed as a railway bridge, so the girders are pretty robust and are pretty deep," said city engineer Shiraz Kanji. TOPHER SEGUIN/FOR METRO

Sky's the limit for store owner's vision

ITALIAN CENTRE

Second store for Calgary is planned as first one opens



Stephanie Dubois
Metro | Edmonton

As Edmonton's famed Italian Centre today opens the doors of its first-ever store outside the city — in Calgary — its president has her eyes set even farther afield.

Indeed, three bustling shops in Edmonton and now an 18,000-square-foot location in Calgary's southeast aren't enough for president Teresa Spinelli.

She said in an interview that opportunities for expansion to cities like Red Deer are already in the works, while moving into the markets in Saskatchewan and Manitoba is also high on her list — eventually. "That is a dream, a hope," Spinelli said.

But first on her agenda, she said, is launching a second store in Calgary, which she said will open in or after 2016.

"What we do is a little different than just a regular store," Spinelli said.

"We're really a gathering place and part of the community. Calgary has some fantastic



A worker at Edmonton's Italian Centre assists a customer. A new 18,000-square-foot store is opening in Calgary today. TOPHER SEGUIN/FOR METRO

Italian stores but we're a little different, and I think a lot of communities look forward to a store like ours."

Spinelli's father, Franco, founded the Italian Centre in Edmonton in 1959. The story goes that his business started when he began importing newspapers and food from his native Italy and the local Italian

community gave him business.

After his death, Spinelli took over the store in 2000.

The company now makes more than \$40 million in yearly revenues.

The Italian Centre doesn't franchise, but instead grows as fast as business demands, and as well as Spinelli and her staff are able.



We're really a gathering place and part of the community.

Teresa Spinelli

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Edmonton singer bags 'golden ticket'

MUSIC

Musician took London trip to audition for reality series

Andrea Ross
Metro | Edmonton

An Edmonton singer-songwriter recently returned from a whirlwind trip in Europe to audition for a popular British talent show.

Josh Sahunta took a last-minute trip to London in early June after a producer from the talent show The X Factor UK saw his videos on YouTube in April, and invited him to come to England to audition for the upcoming season of the show.

Sahunta and his best friend, Jesse Schneider, quickly booked flights when they learned Sahunta made it to the third round of auditions.

Days later, Sahunta was auditioning in London's Wembley Stadium.

The two men filmed the entire journey, and posted an 11-minute montage of the trip on YouTube when they got home.

"I got the 'golden ticket' and everything," Sahunta said about his audition.

"It was awesome, an amazing opportunity to go to Europe for seven days."

Sahunta, 21, didn't get to enjoy London for too long, however: he had to quickly return to Edmonton to complete exams for his spring classes at the University of Alberta.

He studies clinical psychology, but said he dreams of becoming a professional musician.

Now, he's anxiously waiting to hear back from producers by July 17 to find out whether he will be called back overseas.

If he is, he will audition on camera in front of celebrity judges, including Simon Cowell.

No matter the outcome, Sahunta said the trip was an experience of a lifetime.

"It was awesome. We made a lot of friends there who invited us to stay with them next time we come," he said.

In spite of the experience, however, Sahunta is keeping a level head.

"I'm not banking my future on this by any means," he said.

Sahunta reiterated that he enjoyed the opportunity to travel to Europe, and that whether he is called back for an audition or not, the experience was incredible nonetheless.



Josh Sahunta, 21, recently performed and will appear on the upcoming season of X Factor in the United Kingdom. SUBMITTED

"I got the 'golden ticket' and everything ... it was awesome, an amazing opportunity to go to Europe for seven days."

Edmonton singer-songwriter Josh Sahunta, who was recently given the opportunity to audition for British reality series The X Factor UK

TRANSIT FARES

Regional program waiting on province



Stephanie Dubois
Metro | Edmonton

400,000

More than 400,000 passengers boarded Edmonton LRT and buses alone in 2013, with over 200,000 additional passengers boarding Saturdays and Sundays.

SOURCE: EDMONTON TRANSIT

Edmonton and region transit officials aren't going the way of Calgary when it comes to smart fares as they await the Alberta government's next move.

On Tuesday, Calgary Transit announced they were cutting ties with Telvent, the provider of their CONNECT card system.

The announcement comes after what city officials in Calgary said were several failed attempts make the smart fare system — which is supposed to allow riders to put money on cards and tap when boarding the bus or train — work.

But as Edmonton staff explained, a partnership between Edmonton, St. Albert and Strathcona County to create a region-wide smart fare system for transit riders aims to overtake reloadable cards and instead use tap-and-go transit payments.

However, as they said, the next move is for the Alberta government to make.

"We're looking for an account based, open-payment system which takes advantage of the real time connection on the buses," said Lorna Stewart, Edmonton Transit's director of customer experience and innovation.

"We've certainly have been watching and learning from others' experience. These are very complex systems

and we're doing a number of things to maximize the success of our initiative."

The regional plan is supposed to come into effect on city buses and LRT trains in 2018, if the province commits dollars through the Green-TRIP fund. The three municipalities have a proposal with the province already, which has been reviewed along with others submitted from across Alberta, said government officials.

Bob McDonald, director of St. Albert transit, said the three are working on a request for proposal, expected to be released this fall, which will put out the bid for the smart fare technology on local transit.

"We think there's technological solutions that are available that would work for us in the Edmonton region," he said.

Still, if the province doesn't make a decision on whether to fund this by the fall, Stewart said they'll miss the 2018 launch date.

"We're still pretty hopeful because it's a regional partnership," said Stewart.

"These are very complex systems and we're doing a number of things to maximize the success of our initiative."

Lorna Stewart, Edmonton Transit's director of customer experience and innovation



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Edmonton writer Todd Babiak co-wrote *The Great One* about the life of hockey legend Wayne Gretzky and his meaning to Edmonton. TOPHER SEGUIN/FOR METRO

McDavid buzz gives Gretzky film boost

IDENTITY

Writer says city's self-belief improved since *Great One's* day



Tim Querengesser
Metro | Edmonton

It's the timing that's key. As Edmonton swoons over Connor McDavid's arrival, a local screenplay about the departure of Wayne Gretzky has, serendipitously, taken another step toward the screen.

"The arena and the McDavid hype make it a lot easier to start a conversation — but so does the provincial election," said Edmonton writer Todd Babiak, who co-wrote *The Great One* back in 2006, only to struggle to find a director and financial backing.

But today, thanks to the confluence of interest in the city, "it's easier than ever to talk about Edmonton," he said.

Indeed, Babiak and co-writer Jason Margolis have secured Vancouver-based director Matt Kowalchuk and hope to eventually raise a budget of about \$2 million to make *The Great One*.

But for Babiak, who wrote the movie not as a glory piece but as a reflection on Gretzky's meaning for an underrated city, the timing of McDavid's arrival helps sketch clear changes to Edmonton's identity.

On one hand, he explained, you had Gretzky, who once meant so much for Edmonton, but decided to leave and nearly gutted the town. On the other, you now have a still-underrated city that's able to tell its charms without relying on hockey stars, even though it loves the incoming McDavid.

"We've been focused on the city's reputation and image for a couple of years, but doing it internally," Babiak said, reflecting on projects like *Make Something Edmonton*.

"But I think we understand now that while we have had Gretzky, I think (video-game de-



We've been focused on the city's reputation and image for a couple of years, but doing it internally.

Writer Todd Babiak

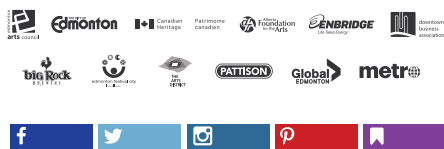
veloper) BioWare and the Fringe Festival serve as microcosms of the city even better."

As such, McDavid's arrival is good for Edmonton, Babiak said, but won't have the same meaning for our identity as Gretzky did.

"We were talking about growing up around here ... how people remember the moment they heard Gretzky was leaving as a kinder, softer version of the JFK assassination," he said.

"Many things are aligning, and (McDavid) is just one part. It certainly helps us; it gives us an opportunity to tell our story."

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SASKATCHEWAN

Wildfire smoke stifling the flames

The number of people forced from their homes by Saskatchewan wildfire smoke continues to climb, but a provincial official says the smoke is now so thick that it's actually helping control the fires.

Steve Roberts with Saskatchewan's environment ministry says the layer of smoke that covers the northern part of the province has blocked out direct sunlight.

Roberts says that's lowered temperatures and boosted humidity, which means the fires are less volatile.

Officials say they don't have an estimate of the total number of evacuees, but say they're currently housing over 4,000 people in hotels and other evacuation centres in North Battleford, Prince Albert, Saskatoon and Regina.

There were 110 active fires in Saskatchewan on Wednesday. Only about 10 were contained.

The smoke hampered the operations of firefighting aircraft on Tuesday. Roberts says air tankers are on standby if smoke clears and visibility is safe.

"As much as it's not good for people, because the cloud layer is

filled with smoke and is so thick, our temperatures are roughly 10 degrees cooler and our humidity is 10 to 15 per cent higher. That combination means the fire activity drops significantly," Roberts explained.

Roberts said conditions in Saskatchewan are so susceptible to fires due to an unusually dry winter followed by an early spring. He said evacuations could continue for days to come.

Close to 600 firefighters, 40 helicopters and 19 planes are involved in fighting the fires. Other provinces have contributed firefighters and equipment, and Roberts said a crew from South Dakota was on its way to Saskatchewan on Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

“

It's helped us secure, especially, those fires that are close to communities.

Steve Roberts, spokesman, Saskatchewan environment ministry

Rideau Hall names Order honourees

ORDER OF CANADA

Many familiar Canadians among year's appointments

The man who helped create the BlackBerry, the female CEOs of two provincial public broadcasters, and a noted First Nations actor are among the Canadians being appointed to the Order of Canada.

Rideau Hall's Canada Day announcement allows those on the

list to share the news of the honour, which is usually kept secret until Gov. Gen. David Johnston makes the information public.

This year's notable names include Douglas Fregin, the man who co-founded Research in Motion with Mike Lazaridis.

Fregin designed the first circuit board the company used to run early versions of its wireless technology, and then helped choose the materials that are still found in BlackBerry devices today.

Lazaridis's wife Ophelia is also being invested as a member of the Order of Canada for her philanthropic work around Waterloo, Ont., where BlackBerry is based.

Author Lawrence Hill will be recognized for his telling of the stories of Canada's black community, notably with the critically acclaimed "Book of Negroes," and for his advocacy work on behalf of women and girls in Africa.

Oscar-nominated and Gemini award-winning actor Graham



Bob Rae THE CANADIAN PRESS

Greene is a familiar face in film, television and theatre in Canada and overseas.

The First Nations actor is being honoured for "achievements as a pioneering and versatile actor," which include a 1991 Academy Award best supporting actor nomination for his role in the film "Dances with Wolves."

Also being honoured are TVOntario CEO Lisa de Wilde

for "transformative leadership" at the provincial public broadcaster, and Tele-Quebec counterpart Michele Fortin for her "contributions to the vitality of French-language and educational television."

Rideau Hall says there will be 100 new appointments to the Order of Canada, with one being a promotion to the highest level - former Ontario premier and Liberal MP Bob Rae is being invested as a companion - while the other is an honorary appointment for Johan Olav Koss, an Olympic speed skating champion from Norway.

Koss, who lives in Toronto, founded Right to Play, an advocacy group for children in sports.

Other notable sports names on the list are Olympic curling champion Russ Howard, former Olympic diver and Pan Am Games medallist Beverley Boys and Fran Rider, who was instrumental in making women's hockey what it is today on the international scene.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

6,000

The number of people from all walks of life who have been invested into the Order of Canada, one of the country's highest civilian honours, over the past 45 years.

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LITTLE HERD ON THE PRAIRIES BISON BOUNCING BACK A herd of Prairie bison graze on the Old Man on His Back Prairie and Heritage Conservation Area south of Swift Current, Sask., on June 18. The bison, once hunted to near extinction, were reintroduced to the area in 2003.

BILL GRAVELAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

BOMB SCARES

Police investigating fourth empty threat in one week

For the fourth time in less than a week, a Canadian passenger jet has had to make an emergency landing because of a threat made against it.

Saskatoon Police say there was no bomb on the latest jet that was the target of a threat.

An explosives team has completed its search of the jet and determined that there

was no explosive device on board.

The plane was travelling from Toronto to Saskatoon on Tuesday evening and landed safely.

The 113 passengers and five crew members were forced to disembark on the tarmac.

Police say the jet is now back in the care of WestJet.

It's the fourth time in a week that a Canadian passenger jet has had to make an emergency landing because of a threat.

Police say the investigation is continuing. There have been no arrests.

In all of the cases, searches of the aircraft unearthed nothing suspicious.

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Reopening of embassies signals new era for Cuba

DIPLOMACY

Posts in Washington, Havana set to open July 20

U.S. President Barack Obama announced Wednesday that the U.S. and Cuba will reopen their embassies in Havana and Washington, heralding a "new chapter" in relations after a half-century of hostility.

"We don't have to be imprisoned by the past," Obama said from the White House Rose Garden. "Americans and Cubans alike are ready to move forward."

Cuban television broadcast Obama's statement live, underscoring the new spirit. A state television anchor read a letter from Cuban President Raul Castro to Obama in which he wrote that Cuba is "encouraged by the reciprocal intention to

develop respectful relations and co-operation between our people and governments."

The embassy agreement marks the biggest tangible step toward normalizing relations since the surprise announcement in December that the U.S. and Cuba were restarting diplomatic ties.

The posts in Washington and Havana are scheduled to open July 20, Cuba's Foreign Ministry said.

The U.S. cut off diplomatic relations with Cuba in 1961 after Fidel Castro's revolution.

For Obama, ending the U.S. freeze with Cuba is central to his foreign policy legacy as he nears the end of his presidency. Obama has long argued that the U.S. economic embargo on the communist island just 145 kilometres (90 miles) south of Florida was ineffective.

Amid the celebratory rhetoric, there were words of caution from both countries.



Anti-Castro activist Osvaldo Hernandez shouts anti-Obama slogans Wednesday in the Little Havana area of Miami.

ALAN DIAZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A statement from the Cuban government said reopening embassies was just the first step in "a long and complex

process toward normalization of bilateral ties."

It demanded an end to the U.S. embargo, the return of the

U.S. naval base at Guantanamo and a halt to U.S. radio and TV broadcasts aimed at the island.

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, a Republican Congresswoman from Florida, said in a statement that opening a U.S. Embassy in Cuba "will do nothing to help the Cuban people and is just another trivial attempt for President Obama to go legacy shopping."

The president on Wednesday reiterated his call for Congress to lift the embargo.

However, he faces stiff resistance from Republicans, as well as some Democrats, who say he is prematurely rewarding a government that engages in serious human rights abuses.

The president also will face strong opposition in Congress to spending any taxpayer dollars for building or refurbishing an embassy in Havana.

Congress would have to approve any administration request to spend money on an embassy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PRISONERS

Escapees did a dry run first

One of two convicted murderers who broke out of a maximum-security prison last month told police that they conducted a practice run the night before their escape, even poking their heads out of a manhole before deciding they were too close to nearby homes, a district attorney said.

Clinton County District Attorney Andrew Wylie said David Sweat, 35, told police from his hospital bed that he masterminded the June 6 breakout from Clinton Correctional Facility.

The escape by Sweat and 49-year-old Richard Matt launched a massive 23-day manhunt. Matt was shot and killed by a border patrol officer June 26. Sweat was wounded Sunday by a state trooper.

Wylie said Sweat claimed he used only a hacksaw blade — not power tools, as officials had reported — to cut holes in the steel walls of his and Richard Matt's adjoining cells as well as a steam pipe they crawled through. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILANTHROPY

Saudi prince plans to donate his \$32B fortune to charity

Saudi Arabia's billionaire Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, one of the world's richest people, announced Wednesday that he will donate all of his wealth of \$32 billion to charity over the coming years.

The money will go to the Saudi prince's organization called Alwaleed Philanthropies to work in the fields of "inter-cultural understanding" and supporting communities in need, he said in a statement. Programs will include promoting health, eradicating disease, bringing electricity to remote villages, building orphanages and schools, as well as "empowering women."

The prince, chairman of investment firm Kingdom Holding Company, said he has already donated \$3.5 billion to the charitable organization.

Alwaleed joins other billionaires who have made similar pledges in recent years, such as Warren Buffett, Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg and Michael Bloomberg.

He credited the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for their wide range of charitable projects and said his organization has partnered with them on health initiatives.



Prince Alwaleed bin Talal and his wife, Princess Amira, shown in 2007. FRANCOIS MORI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

"Philanthropy is a personal responsibility, which I embarked upon more than three decades ago and is an intrinsic part of my Islamic faith," he said in the statement, which came during the holy month of Ramadan when Muslims are encouraged to give charity and help the needy.

The prince, who does not hold an official government position, built his wealth through seed money from his father and smart investments. Kingdom Holding owns stakes in hotels like The Four Seasons,

Fairmont and Raffles, as well as companies such as News Corp., Citigroup, Twitter and Apple.

The prince's two children were present at his boardroom when he made the announcement in Riyadh.

Though he did not give an exact timeframe, Alwaleed said his billions would be allocated through a "well-devised plan" throughout the coming years. He said the donations would be based on a strategy supervised by a board of trustees, which he will head.

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Feds' investment in R&D not paying off

ECONOMY

Memo says Canada behind U.S. on business innovation

Spending billions of public dollars over two decades has done little to reverse Canada's long decline in the key economic category of business innovation, the federal government acknowledges in a newly released document.

The self-assessment, contained in a memorandum to Finance Minister Joe Oliver, underlines how sluggish business innovation remains "of great concern" for Canadian productivity.

"Canada's productivity per-

formance, a key determinant of economic growth, continues to lag significantly behind that of the United States, eroding our relative standard of living," says the October memo, signed by deputy finance minister Paul Rochon.

That push included more than \$11 billion spent by the Harper government between 2006 and 2014 on new resources to support research and innovation, the document says.

On top of that, the note said the government also pumped \$10.9 billion into science, technology and innovation activities and provided another \$3.3 billion in tax relief. In 2014, the memo said \$1.6 billion was dedicated over five years.

The memo to Oliver also warned how tougher competition in the knowledge-based

“
Canada's been a “D” performer basically since we started doing this.

Daniel Munro, Conference Board of Canada

global economy could leave Canada behind.

The note, titled Canadian Business Innovation Landscape, was obtained by The Canadian Press under the Access to Information Act.

The document said Canadian businesses perform well at the international level when it comes to primary research, but they trail their global counterparts in R&D.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDUCATION REGULATIONS

Grads must be able to repay loans, says U.S.

Exotic dancers are hired as admissions counsellors. Recruiters are told to seek out "impatient" individuals who have "few people in their lives who care about them." Military personnel who are still recovering from brain damage are told to sign on the dotted line.

In the two decades since trade schools started popping up on U.S. stock exchanges to maximize profits, allegations of misconduct have been rampant. On Wednesday, new rules go into effect for any school with a career-training program. Graduates must be able to earn enough money to repay their student loans, or a school risks losing access to financial aid. In general, annual loan pay-

ments shouldn't exceed 20 per cent of a graduate's discretionary income or eight per cent of total earnings.

"This is a civil rights issue, plain and simple," said Maura Dundon of the Center for Responsible Lending.

The latest regulations have survived two challenges in court, but include what reform advocates say is a big loophole: Regulations only consider graduates and whether they found a job.

White House officials said the rules are the toughest viable legal option, as many lawmakers are trying to defend the industry. They estimate the regulation affects about 800,000 students.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NORTH DAKOTA

National holiday calendar highlights eclectic occasions

To most Americans, July 4 is Independence Day. But on Marlo Anderson's calendar, it's also Caesar Salad Day and Barbecued Spareribs Day.

Anderson is the mastermind of the National Day Calendar, an online compendium of pseudo-holidays that has become a resource for TV and radio stations looking to add a little levity to their broadcasts, among others.

The 52-year-old co-owner of a VHS digitizing company in North Dakota started the calendar in 2013 and soon realized the site could also be a way for people to declare their own special days. So last year, he started charging \$1,500 to \$4,000 for "national day" proclamations.

"People certainly don't need to use us. It's just we really give it a jumpstart," he said.

Marketing experts give Anderson credit for seizing on the desire by companies and groups for another way to promote themselves, though they question the effectiveness of some of the resulting campaigns. It's not the only reason for celebration, but food seems to be a common subject for special days.

Already, the National Day Calendar says it has given its blessing to more than 30 made-up holidays. A crouton maker paid for National Crouton Day (May 13), a seafood restaurant submitted National Fried Clam Day (July 3) and a craft beer maker came up with National Refreshment Day (fourth Thursday in July).



Zoovio co-owner Marlo Anderson eats homemade fudge to celebrate National Fudge Day. WILL KINCAID/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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	TSX TSX closed Canada Day
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	GOLD \$1,169.30 US (-\$2.50)
NATURAL GAS: \$2.783 US (-4.9¢)	
DOW JONES: 17,757.91 (+138.40)	

IN BRIEF

Manhattan apartments hit new high, average \$1.8M

The average sales price of a Manhattan apartment has eclipsed \$1.8 million — a new high.

The appraisal firm Miller Samuel says in a report for Douglas Elliman Real Estate that its figure — \$1.87 million — compares to \$1.77 million reached in the first quarter of last year.

The Corcoran Group puts the average Manhattan sale price at \$1.81 million.

Corcoran says the median sales price is now \$960,000. The Douglas Elliman report puts it at \$980,000. The median price measures the middle of the market and is less affected by high-end sales.

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ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Journalists can learn a trick or two from comedy

You've gotta love Marc Maron.

Or, if you're a journalist, fear him a little bit.

The man interviews U.S. President Barack Obama for an hour, in his garage, for his podcast (called WTF with Marc Maron), and it's maybe the most compelling interview with the president ever recorded.

It's been hailed as a turning point in the legitimacy of podcasting, and made headlines because the president said the N-word, but it's much more than that. It's evidence that comedians make excellent interviewers and political pundits — and they may just be doing journalists' jobs better than we are.

Maron and Obama had a real, honest-to-goodness chat in the style that has made Maron famous. Maron is so extremely transparent and insecure ("How was it? How did I do? What did he think?" he obsesses in a post-mortem podcast) that his subjects have to respond with candour of their own.

Maron brought politics down to the human level, giving us something we've been craving: to see politicians as real people and some evidence they're telling the truth.

"I was so focused, intently focused on having a one-on-one experience with him," Maron reflected.

"All I wanted to do is con-

nect with the guy."

The same could be said for many voters. But how many journalists get past the oily veneer of talking points?

On TV, the best political commentator is John Oliver. Those who've been fretting over the end of John Stewart and Stephen Colbert need not fear — Oliver takes out enough bullsh-t trash for the both of them.

Canadians are still waiting for our Stewart/Colbert/Oliver. (Rick Mercer, known for wonky camera angles meant to liven up his rants, is far too PC.) Sure, we've got comedians trying to take down Harper with their get-out-the-vote effort, Harpoon. But it's so far only speaking to 1,233 Facebook fans.

It's not a zero-sum game. There are talented political reporters and interviewers on both sides of the border. But journalism — the trade most concerned with the truth — can learn a trick or two from comedy, the trade most adept at revealing it.

From Maron, the power of vulnerability. From Stewart/Colbert/Oliver, the tack of insisting that politicians make sense, and if they don't, offering up context to reveal idiocy.

If anything can help the media be less of a megaphone for truthiness, it might be this competition from journo-comics.

THE BIG THING: RED, WHITE AND ... BLUE?

The federal government has kept quiet about the \$7 million it gave to local Canada Day celebrations this year, but based on what we do know, it appears these red-and-white festivities took place disproportionately in ridings of Tory blue. But 'tis the season to study Canadian history — which shows this type of alleged pork-barrel (Canadian bacon-barrel?) politics is nothing new.

SOURCE: THE CANADIAN PRESS

3 The more things change The feds have long been accused of disproportionate spending in government-held ridings, especially those represented by cabinet ministers. A famous example in the 1990s involved the RCMP after an audit revealed federal employment grants were overwhelmingly given in Liberal ridings, including that of then-prime minister Jean Chrétien.

1 Mystery money Canadian Heritage funded 1,658 patriotic events between June 21 and July 1. Most projects were small, but only 130 (eight per cent) have been disclosed publicly. Of the 30 ridings where municipalities are known to have received the federal funding, 27 are likely to go or stay Conservative in this fall's election.

2 Blue gets more green A Globe and Mail investigation this week revealed ridings that elected Conservative MPs in 2011 received an average of 48 per cent more than opposition-held ridings from the \$150-million Community Infrastructure Improvement Fund (a separate pile from the Canada Day money).

Consider your lungs this barbecue season

THE SCIENCE

Stephanie Orford



Smoke is often a sign of celebration — fireworks, firing up the barbecue, getting out the marshmallows for a beach bonfire. All great in moderation.

We take smoke for granted; it's just what happens when you cook. Smoky flavours are even trendy.

But household smoke inhalation is a worldwide health issue, whether it's in a one-room house in the outskirts of Shanghai or a grill in a Calgary sunroom.

According to the World Health Organization, smoke inhalation from cooking causes an estimated 3.8 million deaths per year. More than measles, malaria and HIV/AIDS combined. All three of those have elicited worldwide health cam-

paigns. Smoke inhalation? Not so much.

Human lungs are delicate, complex structures. In their thinnest spots, the alveoli, the barrier between your blood and the outside air, can be just one cell thick. Maintaining its health is crucial. And lungs need to be elastic so they can stretch and contract as you breathe.

Inhaling smoke gums up that system. The medical community got serious about smoke's effects during the world wars, when poisonous gases — including phosphene, a component of common cooking smoke — were used as weapons.

Nitrogen dioxide and cyanide, among many other toxins, are also found in household smoke.

When they're inhaled, these noxious gases and particles kill and irritate cells in the inner surfaces of the lungs. When these cells are damaged, the lungs

In enclosed cooking spaces, smoke can be 100 times higher than acceptable levels.

lose capacity to produce the protective mucus that lubricates the lungs so they can stretch, trap particles and protect against infection.

Smoke inhalation also impairs the clearance action of cilia, a carpet of microscopic moving hairs on the inner surface of the lungs that would normally sweep the mucus out — and much of the harmful stuff with it.

But toxic smoke can kill lung-lining cells, causing them to slough off and partially block the airway, making breathing more difficult.

Your body's inflammatory reaction to smoke inhalation can cause major damage too. Less than a day

after smoke inhalation, a type of swelling called upper-airway edema can set in, constricting the airways and making them less elastic.

But household smoke's most widespread damage happens through lower levels of exposure over a longer time — months or years spent cooking indoors in a poorly ventilated space.

In enclosed cooking spaces that are poorly ventilated, smoke can be 100 times higher than acceptable levels for small particles, the WHO says. Worldwide, charcoal and wood are the most common culprits.

The need for clean, renewable energy sources isn't just about protecting the planet; it's a necessary safeguard for human health that we need to be more aware of.

Stephanie Orford is a Vancouver-based science writer.

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THE TRUTH IS ALWAYS SOMETHING THAT IS TOLD, NOT SOMETHING THAT IS KNOWN

SUSAN SONIA



Anatomy of a Summer Hit

Four reasons why OMI's Cheerleader is a smash

RYAN PORTER/LIFE@METRONWS.COM

It's already a smash by any measure, but is Cheerleader Canada's Song of the Summer? The remixed reggae crowdpleaser by Jamaican artist OMI (pronounced Oh-Mi) has been certified double platinum in Canada and reigned at No. 1 on the Soundscan chart for three weeks in June. From the rooftop of Toronto's Thompson Hotel, where young and beautiful summer sun worshippers trail their toes in the infinity pool, OMI, pictured at left, chatted with Metro about why his breakthrough hit could soon be blaring from every beach-party Bluetooth speaker in the country.

Rule #1: Must not be released in the summer

Famous alumni: The past 15 songs of the summer

Based on the Song of the Summer champs proclaimed by Billboard, which uses U.S. chart data, you have to reach all the way back to June 22, 1999, when Christina Aguilera's *Genie In A Bottle* dropped, to find a song that was actually released during the summer. Cheerleader was released in the summer ... of 2012. It wasn't until German DJ Felix Jaehn's remix was released May 19, 2014, that the local Jamaican hit stormed Europe.

"In 2012, it made an impact," OMI says. "But this is crazy."

Rule #2: Must be a newly minted superstar

Famous alumni: Iggy Azalea, LMFAO



CHRISTINA AGUILERA

While summer heat lighting struck twice for Katy Perry and Mariah Carey, more often a Song of the Summer has been that artist's breakthrough (or can you actually sing a bunch of Robin Thicke songs?). OMI's own bio is lightly sketched, though he credits his father, who passed away when he was nine, for his love of music.

Rule #3: Must sound island-ish

Famous alumni: Rihanna's *Umbrella*, Los del Rio's *Macarena*

Of course the season of beach parties, iced capps and al fresco dining would be filled with the lazy beats and lengthened vowels of the Caribbean — see Magic!'s 2014 reggae-via-Toronto Song of the Summer runner-up *Rude*. With its bongo-beat and staccato singalong melody oomphed up by Jaehn's house dancebeat, Cheerleader is the kind of hybrid North Americans flip their frisbees for.



MASRI OF MAGIC!

Rule #4: Must be a hot topic of debate

Famous alumni: *I Kissed A Girl*, *Blurred Lines*

A Song of the Summer is as much a party-starter on the dance floor as it is an ice-breaker around the barbecue. Billboard, *Idolator* and the *Toronto Star* are among the media outlets that have questioned lyrics that brand a woman a "cheerleader" rather than someone with her own ambitions.

For the record, OMI believes men can be cheerleaders, too. "It doesn't have to be the woman supporting the man," he says. "A woman can sing to her man or her love. Whoever is that support system for you."

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Ballet breakthrough

AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE

Misty Copeland achieves dream as principal dancer at ABT

Misty Copeland, the Missouri-born ballerina who's become a forceful voice for diversity in ballet and achieved a celebrity that far transcends that rarified world, was named principal dancer at American Ballet Theatre on Tuesday — the first African-American woman to reach that status in the company's 75-year history.

Copeland, 32, fought tears as she spoke about her promotion, which she said was a lifetime dream — but such a difficult one to attain that she never really thought it would happen.

"This is it," she said. "This has been my dream since I was 13, to be a principal dancer and reach these heights."

"But it hasn't been overnight," she added at a hastily arranged news conference — a rarity for a ballet promotion. "It's been 14 years of

extremely hard work ... I'm just so extremely honoured to be an African-American and to be in this position."

And, Copeland said, she hoped her ascension to the very top ranks of ballet would inspire other young dancers of colour — "all the little girls" — to stick with their own dreams.

"So many young dancers of colour stop dancing at an early age because they just don't think there will be a career path for them," she said. "I hope that will change." She spoke of her own doubts when she joined the ABT corps at age 19 and saw no one "who looked like me."

"I had moments of doubting myself and wanting to quit, because I didn't know

-if there would be a future for an African-American woman at that level," she said. "At the same time, it made me so hungry to push through."

The company announced the promotion six days after Copeland made her New York debut as Odette/Odile in Swan Lake, one of the most important roles in a ballerina's repertoire. The emotional performance ended with Copeland being feted onstage by trailblazing black ballerinas of earlier generations, and with a sea of fans cheering and taking cellphone videos.

Copeland paid tribute on Tuesday.

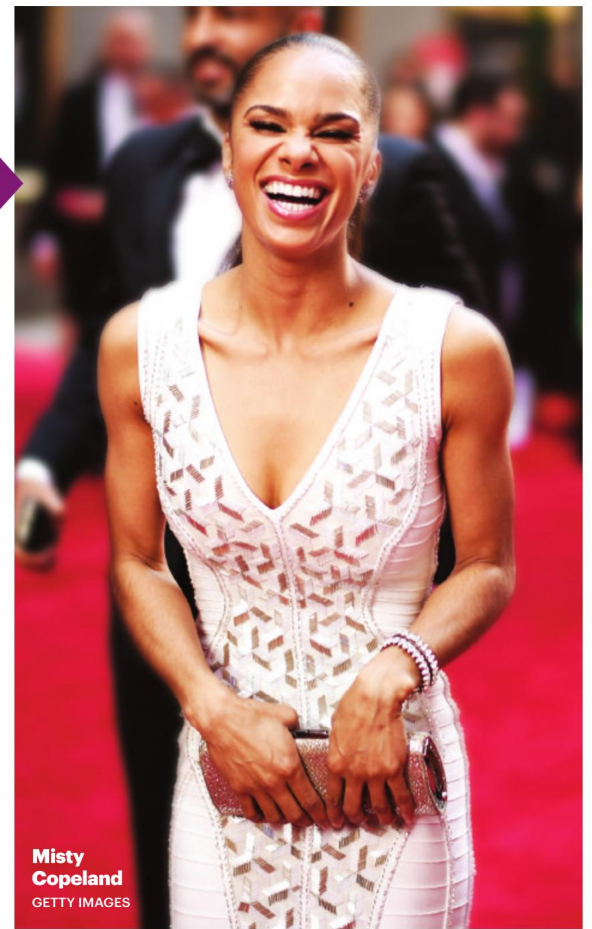
"It's not me up here," she said. "It's everyone who came before me and got me to this position."

"So many young dancers of colour stop dancing at an early age... I hope that will change"

Copeland has become increasingly famous over the past several years, achieving a pop culture status exceedingly rare for a ballet dancer.

"We haven't had a ballet dancer who has broken through to popular culture like this since Mikhail Baryshnikov," said Wendy Perron, an author and the former editor of Dance Magazine. "And she's going to bring more attention from that world to ballet."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Misty Copeland
GETTY IMAGES

+ DRAWING A DIVERSE AUDIENCE, TOO

Many who attended Copeland's historic Swan Lake performance last week noted what a diverse audience Copeland had drawn to the Metropolitan Opera House, where ABT performs its spring season. The crowd was filled with young girls — black and white — in their party dresses.

"She single-handedly made that a diverse audience," said Wendy Perron, one-time editor of Dance Magazine.



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Critics swoon over Miguel's Wildheart

INTERVIEW

Banishing self-doubt led Miguel to record his sexiest, most sincere album to date



With the R&B twinkler Kaleidoscope Dream, Miguel earned a gold plaque, a Grammy Award and seemingly unanimous critical regard.

The ambitious Adorn maestro accomplished something else, too: he reintroduced himself to audiences who might have dismissed him.

"I think I kind of had a chip on my shoulder. I had this sense that I had to prove my intentions since All I Want is You," said the 29-year-old Los Angeles sing-

er, referring to his uneven, conventional debut.

"The great thing about my last album is that it did help change the perspective of people and how they looked at me and my artistry.

"This time, I feel less concerned with trying to prove that."

That self-certainty spawned the atmospheric Wildheart, which since its release this week has inspired the sort of rhapsodic critical praise that's become routine for the spry songwriter.

You wrote or co-wrote every track on the album and produced much of it. You collaborate sparingly. Why is that?

I like to collaborate with people who resonate with me on a creative level.

It's awesome to be able to do that with people who understand me and can help bring out the colour and tones and sonics I'm looking for.

But overall I do have a very clear idea of what I want to accomplish on every song, in

every session and on every album. I'm very particular on who I'll collaborate with.

On What's Normal Anyway, you sing: "Too proper for the black kids, too black for the Mexicans." Was that your experience growing up?

That song is probably the most introspectively literal song on the album.

All those things I'm saying are very true to my experience in life.

Have you been playing guitar more?

Yes. I played a lot more than I did on the last album.

I've spent more time practicing ... and it's cool to be able to play any parts I was hearing in my head.

I had a pretty clear vision of what I wanted this album to be tonally, what I wanted it to look and feel and taste like.

At recent shows you've talked a lot about the idea of "programming." What are you trying to get across?

It's more about understanding who you are and what you stand for and believe.

When you know who you are and what you're willing to sacrifice, I think ... you're no longer bound to worry about how other people look at you.

I feel a tremendous responsibility knowing that I have their attention to speak about a more spiritual connection with yourself.

But I won't pretend that this album is the most deep album. I'm still talking about the things people have known me to talk about.

Your music is always described as sexy. Is that something you can engineer as an artist?

Sexy is such a subjective thing.

The way I choose to write about love and lust and sex is, more often than not, rooted in the dynamic of the emotion.

Even when it's not and it's more overt, and you get that attitude, I think that's where women can appreciate it because it's often so honest in its expression. They have to at least respect that.

Respect is so underrated.

Even when you're saying something that people don't want to hear, if it's honest, they can respect that.

It's a compliment for people to say (the music) is sexy. That's a huge, huge compliment. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MUSIC NOTES

Wildheart on the road

"This album is aggression, this album is Los Angeles, it's sex, it's psychedelia, it's lust, it's loneliness, it's attitude, it's vice, it's love. It's my life," Miguel told Reuters.

But while Wildheart is rooted in California, like the singer himself, Miguel will be

traveling north for two stops on his summer tour, which opens July 24 in Austin, TX.

He arrives in Canada on Aug. 11 with a performance at Toronto's Sound Academy. The only other Canadian stop is Vancouver on Aug. 22 at the Commodore Ballroom.

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SLUGLINE

Recording studios threatened by rise of bedroom producers

SOUND CHECK

Alan Cross



Rush fans were sent into a tizzy a few weeks back with word that the band's once-favourite recording studio was up for sale for \$18,000. That's not a typo.

Rush made seven albums at Le Studio in Morin Heights, near the Laurentians in Quebec, earning it the nickname of Rush's

Abbey Road. David Bowie, Bryan Adams, Keith Richards and the Bee Gees also made the trek to the studio by the lake. But after it was sold by André Perry, its owner/builder, and then sold again, the place fell into severe disrepair. All the gear is gone, the roof is falling in and the only clients these days are squirrels, mice and the odd skunk.

The current ownership has been trying to sell the property since 2009 with zero luck. After

falling \$18K behind on taxes on the 233-acre property, the town threatened to sell the place at auction. But at the last second, the back taxes were paid and the auction was cancelled. The owners still hope to turn the facility into some kind of spa retreat.

This isn't the only legendary recording studio that's fallen on hard times. After Beatles producer George Martin built AIR Studios in Monserrat in the Caribbean, it hosted Dire Straits, Pink

Floyd, The Police, The Rolling Stones and dozens of others. But after it was ruined by Hurricane Hugo in 1989 (and after more than half of Monserrat was devastated by a volcanic eruption in 1995), it was abandoned and never rebuilt.

Twenty miles outside of Paris, Château d'Herouville — a former workplace of David Bowie, Elton John and Iggy Pop — is apparently still looking for a new owner after two years on the market.

For \$1.7 million CAD, you get what can be generously described as a "handyman's special."

Olympic Studios in London, The Record Plant in New York and Sound City in Van Nuys are also defunct, despite being the birthplaces of some of the greatest albums of all time.

Others (such as Mississauga's Metalworks) continue to operate by doubling as multimedia schools.

Why all the carnage? With rec-

ord companies slashing budgets, few acts can afford facilities that rent for thousands of dollars a week. This makes it near impossible for owners to maintain the equipment, let alone upgrade it. Meanwhile, technology has progressed to the point where you can make a decent-sounding album on a laptop in your bedroom.

Sadly, there will be more deaths like Le Studios' in music's future.

Kim Kardashian braves centre stage



CONTRIBUTED

GUEST APPEARANCE

Kim talks body image, selfies and family at acclaimed club

The big reveal from Kim Kardashian's guest turn for San Francisco's revered Commonwealth Club of California on Tuesday night? She was wearing maternity Spanx under her black designer dress to conceal cellulite, not her pregnant belly.

The reality TV star and fashion mogul was invited by the 112-year-old club that describes itself as the nation's oldest and largest public affairs program to talk about her famous family, the business of millennial culture and the objectification of women in media.

Before her visit, the Commonwealth Club's invitation to Kardashian provoked minor controversy.

Some members and listeners of the club's radio broadcasts said they felt she was not worthy of sharing the same spotlight as such notable past speakers as President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Martin Luther King Jr. The program's Facebook page has lit up in recent days with comments opposing and supporting her selection.

Kardashian did discuss the key topics, and others, during an hour-long appearance before an adoring audience that

was mostly young and female.

Judge LaDoris Cordell noted that Kardashian has 94 million social media followers.

"Maybe it's the bikini selfies," the photogenic guest said. "I think I definitely overshare, but I'm really engaged."

The judge also asked if it is realistic for young girls to be successful in a man's world.

Kardashian, who has makeup, hair care, perfume, and clothing lines to her credit along with a bestselling game app, was thoughtful.

"There is this generation of young people — girls — who are beautiful but don't have a

ON HER FAMILY

During her time on stage, Kardashian said the public had been "more supportive than we ever could have imagined" of Caitlyn Jenner and the rest of her family.

strong work ethic," she said. "People sometimes think that with looks things will be easy, but I just encourage people to put in the work."

The most meaningful exchange might have come when Cordell, who was the first African-American female judge appointed to the bench in Northern California, wondered how Kardashian and her husband, rapper Kanye West, planned to protect their biracial children from discrimination. Kardashian shared making the difficult decision not to engage with a fellow airline passenger who screamed profanity and racial comments at her while she was travelling with her daughter.

West "is very vocal about racial issues," she said. "Our communication, I think, will be really helpful for our children."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEGAL DISPUTE

Katy hits a home nun

Katy Perry is caught in a property dispute between a group of elderly nuns and the Los Angeles Archdiocese over who owns a hilltop convent overlooking Hollywood.

The dispute centres on who is authorized to sell the convent. The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary say the building is theirs, and they've sold it to a local restaurateur, Dana

Hollister, who has already moved in.

In a June 19 lawsuit, the archdiocese claimed it is responsible for selling the property, and plans a \$14.5 million deal with another buyer. The defendants in the suit say that buyer is Perry.

Hollister's attorney, Randy Snyder, says the dispute has nothing to do with Perry, but rather is a battle between the diocese and the nuns.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



HOUSE OF CARDS

Neve's in the House

Neve Campbell is set to join the series House of Cards.

The Scream actress will star alongside existing cast members Kevin Spacey and Robin Wright for Season 4 of the show, Deadline reports.

The exact character to be taken on by Campbell in the White House pol-

itical drama, produced by Netflix, is not yet known.

The actress is also appearing in the second season of the NBC comedy Welcome To Sweden.

Filming for House of Cards is scheduled to start this summer, with Season 4 airing in 2016.

AFP



CUTTING TIES

Trump gets dumped

Rapper Flo Rida has pulled out of his guest appearance at the Miss USA pageant later this month and Macy's has dumped Donald Trump, part of the continued fallout over the GOP hopeful's remarks about Mexican immigrants during his presidential campaign announcement.

The pageant also lost both its co-hosts Tuesday, with Dancing with the Stars

Cheryl Burke and MSNBC anchor Thomas Roberts bowing out.

Earlier Wednesday, Macy's became the latest company to end its relationship with Trump. Companies have been cutting ties with Trump left and right after his presidential campaign kickoff speech last week in which he declared that some Mexican immigrants bring drugs and crime to the U.S. and are rapists. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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The big appeal of smaller size

DEVELOPMENTS

Buyers are snapping up micro condos countrywide

CONDO TRENDS
Duncan McAllister

Micro condos are coming to Canada, providing affordability for first-time buyers. Popular with students, downsizers and investors, this new housing form appeals to the consummate downtowner.

Smaller suites are the norm in places like London, Tokyo and New York, and in Canadian cities, they've proved enormously popular with surprisingly swift sales.

Ranging in size from 250 to 400 sq. ft., they're a perfect size for a pied à terre, and for buyers who want to stake their claim on a piece of the downtown condo market and who are willing to trade private space for public space.

"The main amenity is the city itself," says developer Jon Stovell, president of Reliance Properties. "It's a 300-square-foot condominium with a three-million-square-foot living room."

The company has been actively building its popular micro lofts in Vancouver, Victoria and Surrey, B.C.

In Vancouver, home owner-



Vibe houses small condos but the building will include eateries and retail space at street level in Edmonton. CONTRIBUTED

“

The main amenity is the city itself

Jon Stovell,
developer and president
of Reliance Properties

ship of even a regular studio or one-bedroom is an impossibility for a lot of people, says Stovell. The micro lofts have proven popular with

younger purchasers.

"Millennials totally get this equation," says Stovell. "They're much less status conscious."

Urban Capital got the ball rolling a few years ago, with its Smart House projects. The micro condo trend has definitely been growing and expanding internationally, says partner David Wex.

"We pressed the reset button on condo design. What we're offering at Smart House Ottawa is a way to live affordably and sustainably right in

the city's heart."

With micro condos, Wex says the focus is on smart design and space-saving ideas. Everything from storage to appliances is cleverly thought out with an economy of space in mind.

In Edmonton, Vibe condos by the Carrington Group is the city's first foray into smaller suites. "The micro condos are not really here yet," explains project sales manager Riley Lagaden, who initially wasn't sure how they would fly. After launching, he

was pleasantly surprised with the response. "Edmonton has been waiting for this."

Need help organizing your small condo? Kyla Rozman is co-owner of Vancouver-based In Order To Succeed Professional Organizing. The company specializes in helping people make efficient use of every square inch of space.

"When in a small space you need to think up, think down or think out," says Rozman, who sees micro condos as a growing trend as more and more retirees are downsizing.

+
NEAT TRICKS

Kyla Rozman's tips on organizing a small condo

Think up

- Maximize the tops of your closets by adding shelves and bins with locking lids.
- Taller furniture allows for more storage, such as tall bookcases. Use all the space at the top of your walls.

Think down

- Your side tables and coffee table should come with storage spaces (such as a shelf or drawers).
- Multipurpose the bed with a hideaway unit or with storage bins underneath.
- Put narrow cabinets behind the bathroom door — it's a great spot for all the little containers.

Think out

- Let go of some belongings. If it doesn't really serve you and it's not something you love, it should go.
- Start with the question, how many do I really need?
- If it's something you only use once a year, consider borrowing it from a friend (think camping gear).

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MARIANNE HAYES/METRO IN NEW YORK



THE CREATIVE MOM

1 Farmhouse-chic coffee table

Blogger Natalie Dalpiaz of The Creative Mom took the Hemnes coffee table and gave it farmhouse style using pieces of lumber, wood stain, Polyurethane, glue, screws and a clamp. The best part? It only cost about \$12 CDN in lumber and a few hours of work to pull off. For full instructions, go to thecreativemom.com.



GIRL IN THE GARAGE

2 Quirky 'suitcase' dresser

Travel lover Jen Crider, a.k.a. the Girl in the Garage, painted an Ikea Rast dresser to look like suitcases stacked together. You can also pull off this hack with any other standard set of drawers, but it's the accessories that really give the finished piece some character. Find instructions at girlinthegarage.net.



STYLE ME PRETTY

3 Gold and marble shelves

This hack transforms a bookshelf into a luxe unit for showcasing accent pieces. "We love this project for the simple ease of execution and the time factor," says Erin Lepperd of Style Me Pretty. The project relies on gold spray paint and some marble contact paper. Go to www.stylemepretty.com for instructions.

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England doomed by own goal at the death vs. Japan

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Lionesses' run to semifinal ends in tears at Commonwealth

It took some help, but Japan is returning to the Women's World Cup final.

Laura Bassett's own goal in the 92nd minute proved to be the heartbreaker as Japan punched its ticket to the World Cup championship game with a 2-1 win over England on Wednesday.

Fourth-ranked Japan, the defending World Cup champion and silver medallists at the 2012 London Olympics, will meet the United States for the title on Sunday in Vancouver.

"We had a tough game today," said Japan head coach Norio Sasaki. "Our goal was to go to the final and that's what we have managed to do. However we played, we are now off to the final and we should cherish it."

Japan has now won nine consecutive World Cup games dating back to 2011.

Japan was awarded a penalty kick as English defender Claire Rafferty made a major mistake in shoving Saori Ariyoshi from behind on her way to the net. Aya Miyami made no mistake scoring her second goal of the tournament at the 33rd minute to make it 1-0 for Japan.

WEDNESDAY Semifinal



However, England got a penalty call of its own in the 40th minute when Yuki Ogimi impeded Steph Houghton who appeared to have taken a dive on the play. Fara Williams took the shot and knotted the game 1-1.

The game appeared to be headed to extra time, but a long Japanese cross by Nahomi Kawasumi in the 92nd hit Bassett's leg and deflected off the woodwork and in to give Japan the victory.

"What a tough one to take," said England coach Mark Sampson. "I'm very proud of this group and what this team has done for the game back home, I know it will have a lasting legacy."

Sampson added the entire team is in full support of Bassett.

"It was a horrible moment for Laura, but the team holds her in high regard," he said. "Every person on our team was devastated when that ball went over the line, but without her we wouldn't have been in this semifinal."

England will remain in Edmonton to face Germany in the bronze-medal game on Saturday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Japan's Mizuho Sakaguchi, left, and Rumi Utsugi celebrate after their World Cup semifinal match against England on Wednesday at Commonwealth Stadium. RONALD MARTINEZ/GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Love to stay in Cleveland

After all the speculation and intrigue surrounding Kevin Love's foray into the free agent market, the star power forward ended up right where he said he would all along — in Cleveland.

Love announced in The Players Tribune on Wednesday that after his uneven first season ended with a serious shoulder injury, he is coming back to help LeBron James finish winning a championship.

Love agreed to terms on a maximum contract of five years that could be worth more than \$110 million, a person with knowledge of the deal said on condition of anonymity because details have not been released. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Red Sox Smoak'd by Jays

Justin Smoak hit two home runs and the Toronto Blue Jays' offence exploded in a 11-2 victory over the Boston Red Sox on Wednesday.

Edwin Encarnacion, Jose Bautista and Josh Donaldson also hit home runs for Toronto (42-38), ending a small two-game skid. Jose Reyes had four hits and three runs batting leadoff for the Blue Jays.

Mark Buehrle (9-4) pitched seven innings, giving up one run on four hits.

The left-hander struck out seven with 106 pitches. Aaron Loup and Brett Cecil came in in relief.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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GX 460

McDavid putting nose to grindstone at Rexall Place

NHL

Top draft pick undergoes fitness tests, skating drills

Connor McDavid, the teen phenom forecast to be hockey's next great superstar, officially hit the ice Wednesday with the Edmonton Oilers.

And the 18-year-old made it clear he's all in on the Oil Drop.

McDavid underwent medical and fitness tests before hitting the ice along with other prospects for power-skating drills on the first day of the Oilers orientation camp.

"The fitness testing wasn't a whole lot of fun, but (it was) really cool to throw on the Oilers gear, the gear I want to play the rest of my life wearing," said McDavid.

He said he still doesn't feel like an Oiler.

"It's going to take a little while for it to sink in.

"It still feels surreal. It's hard to picture being part of an NHL organization let alone the Edmonton Oilers, who have such a storied background."

The man from Newmarket, Ont., joined other recent top Oiler draft picks, including defenceman Darnell Nurse and centre Leon Draisaitl for workouts at Rexall Place.

+ SIGNINGS

Earlier Wednesday, the Oilers agreed to terms with free agent defenceman Andrej Sekera from the Los Angeles Kings and centre Mark Letestu from Columbus.

Recent trades have also harvested goalie Cam Talbot from the New York Rangers, defenceman Griffin Reinhart from the New York Islanders, defenceman Eric Gryba from the Ottawa Senators, and winger Lauri Korpikoski from Arizona.

Draisaitl said McDavid is making a good first impression.

"He seems like a very nice, very humble guy. And obviously everybody knows what he's capable of on the ice," said Draisaitl.

"He's a special guy and I think the whole organization should be very, very excited about him."

Fans will be allowed in starting Friday to watch the workouts. Large crowds are expected given the euphoria that has gripped Alberta's capital since McDavid's name was called by the Oilers as the NHL's top overall pick at last week's draft.

Trademark McDavid No. 97 Oilers jerseys are hot sellers, and over-exuberant fans even re-



Connor McDavid takes a breather during Oilers orientation camp at Rexall Place on Wednesday. JOHN ULAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

decorated a road sign to welcome McDavid. It's a fan base parched for even moderate success.

The Oilers, once the NHL's model franchise, have been mediocre for a decade, with multiple coaching changes, public

apologies, and no playoff appearances.

McDavid's selection is the high-profile component of a recent organizational retrofit that includes new general manager Peter Chiarelli and head coach

Todd McLellan.

Chiarelli has been working feverishly in recent days overhauling a roster considered average up front but woefully weak on defence and in goal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ NHL MOVES

Leafs unload Kessel in trade with Penguins

The Toronto Maple Leafs completed a blockbuster trade to send star right-winger Phil Kessel to the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Toronto gets winger Nick Spaling, prospects Kasper Kapanen and Scott Harrington, a third-round pick and a conditional first in the move.

The Leafs also sent forward Tyler Biggs and defenceman Tim Erixon to Pittsburgh along with a conditional pick.

If the Penguins make the playoffs next season, the Leafs receive their first-round pick and send Pittsburgh back the second-round pick they currently own from the Daniel Winnik trade. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sather steps down as Rangers general manager

Glen Sather is stepping down as the general manager of the New York Rangers and being replaced by

longtime assistant Jeff Gorton. In making the announcement of the front-office change on Wednesday, Sather said he would remain as the Rangers president. The 71-year-old has been in charge of the Rangers since 2000.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Glen Sather
GETTY IMAGES

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WIMBLEDON

Raonic Haas all the aces in second-round victory

Milos Raonic rode his blistering serve to the third round of Wimbledon on Wednesday, firing 29 aces to hold off veteran Tommy Haas 6-0, 6-2, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (4).

The seventh-seeded Canadian, who hit the third-fastest serve in tournament history at 233 km/h, appeared to

be cruising to victory early on as Haas managed to win just six points in the 17-minute first set. But the experienced German found his game in the third set, winning a tie-breaker to make Raonic work for the victory.

Raonic said he was never concerned, despite Haas's comeback. "I was serving pretty well," said the player from Thornhill, Ont. "That's always going to make my job a little bit easier." Still, Raonic was impressed with the play of Haas, who at 37 became the oldest man on Monday to win a match at Wimbledon since Jimmy Connors in 1991.

"I think it's incredible what he's doing," said Raonic. "It's not just playing at 37 but playing at 37 and constantly coming back from many different



Milos Raonic
GETTY IMAGES

+ NEXT TEST

Raonic will meet Australia's Nick Kyrgios in a rematch of their 2014 quarter-final, a match Raonic won 6-7, 6-2, 6-4, 7-6 (4).

things. It's a testament to the passion he has for the game."

Raonic, who made the semi-finals at the All England Club last year, had surgery for an inflamed nerve in his right foot and missed the French Open this spring. He said he's still working his way back from the injury.

"I'm doing everything I need to be able to keep playing better and better every single match," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Serves four.

Ready in

Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes

Ingredients

- 8 oz boneless chicken breast
- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 1 cup sliced onion
- 1 Tbsp minced ginger
- 1 Tbsp hot red chili curry paste
- 2 tsp chopped garlic
- 1 cup sliced red bell pepper
- 3 Tbsp sweet chili sauce (Heinz or Asian flavoured)
- 2 Tbsp low sodium soy sauce
- 1 Tbsp lemon juice
- 2 tsp sesame oil
- 4 oz rice noodles (medium width)
- 1 cup thinly sliced mango
- 3 Tbsp chopped basil or cilantro

Directions

1. In a grill or sauté pan sprayed with vegetable oil, cook chicken just until temperature reaches 165 F or cooked through, about eight minutes. Let cool slightly, then slice into medallions.
2. Meanwhile, in a large skillet, add vegetable oil, onion, ginger, curry paste and garlic. Stir fry just until onions soften, then add bell peppers and sauté for two minutes.
3. For sauce, mix chili sauce, soy sauce, lemon juice and sesame oil.
4. Cook rice noodles while vegetables are cooking, just until tender. Drain noodles and place on serving platter. Add cooked vegetables and sauce, mix well. Garnish with chicken, mango, basil.

Nutrition per serving

- Calories 242
- Sodium 597 mg

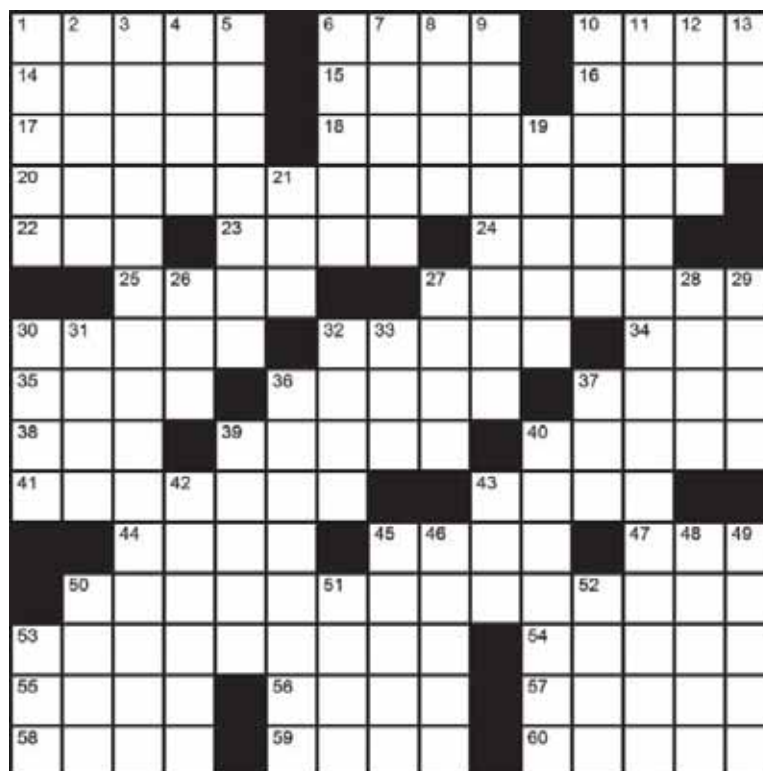
PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. County fair attractions
6. Plucked orchestra instrument
10. Song in '65's "The Sound of Music": "Climb __ Mountain"
14. "___ economy is always beauty." - Henry James
15. Nobelist Mr. Wiesel
16. "Well, well, wells."
17. Love conquers all = __ vincit amor
18. Moveable pieces sofa
20. French explorer sharing the name of a Montreal bridge: 2 wds.
22. "Gimme __ '1" (Edmonton cheer-starter)
23. Modernists
24. Brewer's kiln
25. Foe in Fido's fur
27. __-__ record, as in sports
30. Latte's bubbles
32. Where Joni Mitchell felt like a "free man"
34. "___ Wiedersehen!"
35. River islets
36. Seasoned yogurt dip of India
37. "Meet Me ___. Louis" (1944)
38. Homer's exclamation!
39. Like, in Laval
40. Some students, shortly
41. 1970s singer Cat



43. It's not salmon, it's this
44. "The __" (Reality show Anderson Cooper hosted)
45. Scottish family
47. Roadside mil. hazard
50. Casey and Finnegan puppeteer

- who is a Member of the Order of Canada: 2 wds.
53. __ Berries (Canadian fruits)
54. Alongside: 2 wds.
55. "What ___ mind reader?"
56. "Anything ___?"

57. Film part
58. Canadian convenience store chain
59. Notices
60. "The Jet-sons" son

- "Cold Mountain" (2003) role
3. Sly & The Family Stone hit: 4 wds.
4. Mr. La Salle of "ER"
5. Steadfast
6. "___ Fine" by The Chiffons
7. Sir Guinness'

DOWN

1. Wine of Spain
2. Jude Law's

8. Costa's companion
9. 'Canada's Victorian Oil Town' in Ontario
10. Someone self-centred
11. Titan (b.circa1490 - d.1576), for one: 2 wds.
12. Bring up
13. Opium perfume monogram
19. Tilted lettering [abbr.]
21. "Yikes!"
26. "___ magic!"
27. Mr. Johnson
28. Overcooked meal
29. Tiny amphibians
30. Trends
31. Carouse
32. Ms. Dawber's
33. Aspiration
36. "Be My Baby" by The ___
37. 'Opt' suffix
39. Salsa singer
- Ms. Cruz
40. Canadian brand of tofu
42. Smirnoff drinks
43. Spotted, to Tweety Bird
45. Shut
46. City paths
48. It's short for 'low budget'
49. Cartoon duck
50. "She's a Bad Mama ___" by Carl Carlton
51. Courtney Love band
52. Envelope insertion [abbr.]
53. Director Mr. Mendes

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You will be forced to choose between two tempting possibilities today. If it's a choice between moving up in the world and making a positive difference, make a difference.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Do you stick with what you know or try something new? The planets suggest you will have more fun if you take a chance.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Try not to make any rash decisions about money matters today because the full moon warns you are likely to regret it. No matter how confident and enthusiastic you may be, you won't be thinking clearly enough to make a rational decision.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
It may feel as if you are being held back from fulfilling your potential but don't worry. While the moon is full you should take your time and wait to see how things develop.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Today's full moon warns in no uncertain terms that you must take care of your health. If you take on too much over the next few days you are sure to regret it. Be kind to yourself.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You may be more emotional than usual today but there is no need to worry. Sometimes things build up to such an extent that they must be let out and the full moon makes this one such occasion.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
There may be chaos in every direction today but if you stay calm there is not much it can do to harm you personally. Loved ones will be rather touchy though, so you might like to stay out of their way.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You would benefit from getting out more. Short trips are lucky for you now, although they won't be without their ups and downs. The important thing is that you are visible. Remind the world you still exist.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Today you will be critical both of yourself and others. Don't worry about it — you're allowed to be less than superhuman once in a while.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
No matter how self-controlled you are today's full moon in your sign will heighten your emotions. If you do lose your temper don't be too hard on yourself.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
No matter how busy you are, you must return a favour of some kind today. Someone was good enough to help you out, now you must do what you can for them.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
The full moon warns this is not the right time to make waves. You may have strong opinions about what's going on around you but there is no point making enemies.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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